

CPPW Signage Grant FAQs

Overview

Smoking is a health and safety hazard, both to the tobacco user and nonsmokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke. It is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Hospitals, mental health and chemical dependency treatment providers and health systems across the state and country are working to encourage patients to adopt healthier tobacco-free lifestyles. Consequently, an increasing number of organizations adopted tobacco-free campus policies to protect their patients, employees and visitors. Such policies prohibit the use of cigarettes and tobacco products both within buildings and anywhere on the provider's campus.

Implementing a tobacco-free campus policy is an ambitious goal requiring comprehensive implementation and communication planning. However, improving the health and recovery of patients, consumers, employees, and the community through healthier environments is central to the healthcare mission and well worth undertaking.

Q. How will people know that you have adopted a tobacco/smoke-free campus policy? Signage indicating that your campus is tobacco/smoke-free will play a large role in communicating to employees, patients, consumers and visitors that tobacco use will no longer be allowed on your campus.

Q. What is the difference between a smoke-free and tobacco-free campus?

Smoke-free campuses don't allow smoking anywhere in buildings or on any campus property (including while in your car on campus parking lots). Tobacco-free means no smoking, no use of spit tobacco or other forms of oral tobacco products, and no use of electronic cigarettes. The policy should allow for restriction of emerging tobacco products as well. FDA-approved nicotine medications that help stop smoking like the nicotine patch, nicotine gum or nicotine lozenge are not part of a tobacco-free policy. Often a tobacco-free policy restricts possessing of ALL tobacco products while on the campus.

Q. Where do I put signs on my smoke/tobacco-free campus? Sign placement around your campus should be determined by a policy implementation team with input and approval from facilities management, security, and organization leadership. Generally, it is not necessary or advisable to identify areas where people can smoke or use tobacco. Signage should be posted at all building entrances/exits, within parking structures, and at key points across campus (but not limited to)...

1. Main organizational entrance (this sign can include mission or purpose statement of policy)
2. Other building entry ways
3. Loading docks
4. Parking lots
5. Outdoor congregation areas

6. Employee break areas
7. Garden areas
8. On or near benches
9. Outdoor covered areas
10. Fire exits
11. Walkways

You can also produce small pocket cards to hand out to violators of the policy. The cards should explain the policy and encourage compliance. They can also list resources for help with quitting.

Q. Are smoke-free laws fair to smokers? Both federal and state courts have determined there is no legal right to smoke. Smoke and tobacco-free policies do not make people stop smoking. They do restrict where smoking can occur to protect others and create a healthy environment. People who smoke/use tobacco products can do so on their own time, but are not allowed to where it is prohibited.

For more information, contact King County's Tobacco Prevention Program at **(206) 206 7613**.

--Please see sign examples on the next page--



Other ideas for language:

- Top of sign: **“This campus is tobacco-free to promote recovery”**
Bottom of sign: **“ Respect our clients, staff, and visitors. Tobacco is not allowed on our campus”**
- **“Tobacco is strictly prohibited on this campus”**
- **“Thank you for keeping our campus tobacco-free”**
- **Beginning January 1, 2013, all our properties will be tobacco-free. For more information, visit: *agency website***